

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. This represents a high benchmark in performance, which requires completion of eight hours of classroom instruction, participation in a Model Farm field tour, and development and implementation of an NRCS Resource Management System plan to address potential or occurring pollution. With the assistance of USDA programs and other technical assistance, these producers have installed research-based BMPs to address environmental issues. These certified producers manage more than 16,000 acres of Louisiana farmland, all within a 50-mile radius of 303d listed impaired state waters. In addition, multi-state collaboration has resulted in the development of a template by the Louisiana Master Farmer Program that can be used by other states to develop similar programs, focusing on curriculum development, implementation and lessons learned. Land area impacted by targeted programs is 1,020,507 acres.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER
H.R. 3082

Army

Fort Polk, La 71459

Multipurpose Machine Gun Range \$6,400,000. Construct a standard design MPMG Range, required to train and test soldiers on the skills necessary to zero Squad Automatic Weapon, Machine Guns, 40mm Automatic Launcher, and Sniper Weapons to detect, identify, engage and defeat targets in a tactical array.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3329, THE LOOK-BACK ELIMINATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Look-Back Elimination Act of 2009.

I am proud to serve on the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support led by Chairman McDERMOTT. I would like to thank Chairman McDERMOTT, my good friend, the Gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), and all of my colleagues on the Subcommittee for their hard work in the areas of child welfare and foster care.

Today, American families are struggling in ways not seen since the Great Depression. Rising unemployment, health care costs, and a struggling economy are all taking their toll, and children in the foster care system must not be forgotten during these very difficult times.

When Congress passed welfare reform legislation in 1996, they eliminated the existing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was a cornerstone of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, and replaced it with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or TANF. At the same time, Congress locked the income eligibility requirement for federal foster care and adoption assistance benefits at the various existing 1996 income thresholds established by States under the now nonexistent AFDC program. This is known as the look-back standard.

Since that time, the federal law has not been changed, and despite changing economic realities like inflation and wage growth, states cannot update their income eligibility requirements. As a result thousands of children in foster care and adoption assistance programs are ineligible to receive federal benefits.

Last year Congress passed and the President signed legislation to phase out the look-back standard for children in the adoption assistance program. The bill I am introducing today would assist the other children affected by the look-back standard—those in the foster care system. We need to help these children, and we need to help them now.

The look-back standard sets the income limit for eligibility at thirty-one percent of the federal poverty level—a level so low that even a parent's part-time job at minimum wage could render a family ineligible. As a result, states are prohibited from using federal funds to assist those most in need. In my home state of Georgia almost sixty percent of children in the child welfare system cannot receive federal IV-E assistance. Thousands more foster care children across the country are ineligible to receive benefits. This is wrong; it is just plain wrong.

Foster care children need this support, and states are struggling to juggle services to try and prevent children from falling through the cracks. You just cannot put a price on helping a child. We must have this oversight corrected. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

HEREFORD WWII POW CHAPEL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the rededication of a Texas Historical Landmark, Camp Hereford Italian Prisoner of War Camp memorial chapel. This World War II monument has survived more than 64 years as a symbol of the shared history that binds Texas, the United States, and Italy together.

During World War II, the Hereford POW camp stretched across 800 acres in Castro and Deaf Smith counties in West Texas. It was the second largest United States POW camp built during World War II. An estimated 5,000 Italian POWs were held at the site between February 1943 and June 1946, when the last of the POWs were repatriated.

In 1945, the Italian POWs received permission from the U.S. military to pay for and build a chapel within the camp to serve as a marker for the burial site of their fallen soldiers. In honor of their five comrades who died while interned, skilled artisan Italian prisoners constructed the thirteen-foot-square chapel. After the war, the deceased were exhumed and returned to Italy, leaving the chapel abandoned and vulnerable to deterioration.

In 1988, former POWs donated money, original sketches, and photographs for the first major restoration of the chapel. The project was completed in time for a reunion held in Hereford in June, 1989. In 1992, the Texas Historical Commission declared the chapel a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

In spite of its historical significance, the chapel was severely vandalized in 2008.

Thanks to financial support from the Committee for Italians Living Abroad and the volunteer effort of Castro and Deaf Smith county residents, the chapel has once again been restored to its original beauty. The Castro County Historical Commission and Committee for Italians Living Abroad will co-host a rededication ceremony Saturday, August 8, 2009.

The restoration of this monument stands to preserve the history of the mutual regard that developed between the prisoners and their captors in rural Texas, and I congratulate the community for preserving this piece of history.

HONORING MRS. ERNESTINE
NEITZEL

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has made a very generous contribution to Oregon's coastal health and to the recovery of Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Mrs. Ernestine Neitzel has spent almost all her life living in the Necanicum River valley within the first congressional district of Oregon. She moved to Oregon from Colorado in 1925 at the age of four. Her father had purchased some farmland on the edge of the Necanicum River where they grew vegetables to be sold at local stores in Seaside, Oregon.

In 1945, Ernestine married Mr. Herbert Neitzel, who had recently returned from serving in World War II. Together, they purchased an additional 25 acres of farmland adjacent to the existing farm and expanded it to include dairy cows. During this time, Ernestine also delivered bread to the soldiers stationed at Fort Lewis, Oregon and worked in several stores in Seaside.

In the fall of 2008, Ernestine made the decision to give her family farmland back to the Necanicum River. Before being cultivated, this land was prime estuarine and rearing habitat for Pacific salmon and steelhead. Now, she is working with individuals and organizations within the state of Oregon to restore the land to its pre-developed state. Upon completion, this new wetland and estuarine habitat will help strengthen runs of migratory Pacific salmon and steelhead as well as resident rainbow trout.

Ernestine and the Neitzel family have a long history in the Necanicum River Valley and have dedicated their lives to enriching the surrounding communities. With this contribution, she leaves a legacy of environmental conservation and dedication to the restoration of a natural resource that is an essential component to our way of life in the Pacific Northwest.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN